

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 2, line 12 as follows:

For stent delivery, a stent can be securely crimped on the balloon. The balloon can be the same balloon used for the remodeling of the vessel wall or a second stent delivery balloon can be introduced into the patient. At the designated site, the stent is deployed by the balloon, and then the balloon is deflated and withdrawn from the bore of the stent, leaving the stent to maintain vascular ~~patency~~ patency and optionally to ~~delivery~~ deliver a therapeutic substance. A stent can be modified to delivery a therapeutic substance by a polymeric coating. Briefly, a polymer dissolved in a solvent and a therapeutic agent added thereto can be applied to the surface of a stent. The solvent is evaporated, leaving a polymeric coating, impregnated with a therapeutic substance, on the stent surface. A polymeric coating can increase the coefficient of friction between the stent and the balloon of a catheter assembly on which the stent is crimped for delivery. Additionally, some polymers have a “sticky” or “tacky” consistency. If the polymeric material either increases the coefficient of friction or adheres to the catheter balloon, the effective release of the stent from the balloon after deflation can be compromised. If the stent coating adheres to the balloon, the coating, or parts thereof, can be pulled off the stent during the process of deflation and withdrawal of the balloon following the placement of the stent. Adhesive, polymeric stent coatings can also experience extensive balloon sheer damage post-deployment, which could result in a thrombogenic stent surface and embolic debris. The stent coating can stretch when the balloon is expanded and may delaminate as a result of such shear stress. Accordingly, there is a need to eliminate or minimize damage caused to a coating of a

stent by the delivery balloon. The embodiments of the present invention provide for methods to modify the balloon to achieve this as well as other results.